

BEDFORD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENTCITIZEN'S COMPLAINT FORM

NAME OF COMPLAINANT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NATURE OF COMPLAINT: (Please include police department member(s) name(s), description, date, time and location of incident)

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:10 PM, officer Pelino, Bedford Park police at the Hampton Inn Chicago-Midway. I am the Front Desk Supervisor of the Hampton Inn. we noticed that room 410 dialed 911. Guest said they were feeling sad. Bedford Park showed up. officer Pelino & officer Chris showed up. They requested guest info as I explained the situation. officer Pelino made a comment stating, "I don't care if she kills herself, she can die in her own blood and I'm not cleaning it up." officer Chris noticed that I was uncomfortable by his comments and told him to stop. He said, "No really it's just so selfish. I really do hope she dies." I said, "I really don't want to hear that. My sister killed herself two years ago and I just don't want to hear that." He didn't apologize.

officer Chris told him to go wait outside and he argued with her about how this was HIS call and he's not going to wait outside. The fire department is on their way. I handed officer Chris the guest info and asked her if she needed any additional information. She said no. I went in the back office and cried for a good 5 minutes. She came back there and explained that their line of work is hard. I said, "It's OK, my brother is an officer in Chicago and he feels the same way but he keeps his opinions to himself."

She said that she is very sorry for the way he acted. I'm filing this report because of the unprofessionalism that was displayed tonight. It makes me feel uncomfortable to call the police.

Read before Signing: I understand that it is a violation of 720 ILCS 5/26-1(a)(4) to willfully make a false report. In the event the report is proven to be false, the information may be provided to the State's Attorney for possible prosecution.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

12:13 AM

COMPLAINT RECEIVED BY: LT. PETE LETIERE

SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_

J. Lettieri #36

PREPARE IN DUPLICATE - COPY TO COMPLAINANT

**COPY**



## Peter Lettiere

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**From:** Peter Lettiere  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2017 3:25 AM  
**To:** Daniel F. Godfrey  
**Cc:** Wayne C. Wahl  
**Subject:** CITIZEN COMPLAINT / Officer Pelino

On March 26, 2017, at approximately 0000 hours, I met with [REDACTED] in our station lobby regarding a citizen complaint. Parkison advised me that she is an employee of the Hampton Inn and would like to file a complaint against Officer Pelino. The following is a summary of our conversation.

[REDACTED] advised that she was working behind the front desk of the Hampton Inn (6540 S. Cicero) tonight during a police and fire call for a possible suicidal subject in room 410 (16-0691). [REDACTED] advised that Officer "Chris" (Woods) was the first to arrive on scene. She began talking to Officer "Chris" regarding the patron in room 410. [REDACTED] then advised that Officer Pelino arrived shortly thereafter, maybe only about 15 seconds later. She advised that Officer Pelino immediately walked over to where the coffee was and began pouring a cup. [REDACTED] advised that while she was explaining her interactions with the patron in room 410 to Officer "Chris", Officer Pelino began making comments such as "I don't care if she kills herself, she can die in her own blood and I'm not cleaning it up". [REDACTED] then stated that Officer "Chris" told him to "stop". She then states that Officer Pelino said "No really, its just so selfish...I really do hope she dies". [REDACTED] said she told Officer Pelino that she did not want to hear that because she had a sister that killed herself 2 years ago. She then advised that Officer "Chris" told Officer Pelino to go wait outside, to which he said he would not and he argued with her. [REDACTED] advised that Officer Pelino did not apologize.

[REDACTED] advised that she went into the back room and cried for about 5 minutes. [REDACTED] stated that Officer "Chris" came back to see her later and apologized for what had happened. [REDACTED] advised that she felt this was very unprofessional. [REDACTED] had no further interaction with Officer Pelino.

I provided [REDACTED] with a copy of the Bedford Park Police Department "Citizen Complaint Form" to which she filled out, signed and dated. After she completed the form, I read the signed complaint, signed it myself, and provided a copy to [REDACTED].

Throughout the process [REDACTED] appeared very level-headed and on several occasions apologized for making me have to do this, but she felt it was serious enough to make a complaint. I noticed what appeared to be a black smear mark next to her left eye/temple area.

Per Bedford Park Rules and Regulations Chapter 10.40 and 40.15, I initiated an Informal Inquiry into the incident.

At approximately 0030 hours on this same date, I spoke with Officer Pelino in my office. I advised Officer Pelino of my initial informal inquiry into a complaint made against him, specifically the alleged statements he made. The following is a summary of our conversation. Officer Pelino advised that he arrived at the Hampton Inn and Officer C.Woods was speaking to the front desk employee. He said because she was speaking with the hotel employee, he decided to get a cup of coffee while he waited. He said that Officer C.Woods then made comments to him about getting the coffee. He advised he responded with comments, but not the comments I had read from the actual complaint. He stated he said we do this thing all the time and they never kill



themselves and that he didn't care if she kills herself because he would not be the one cleaning up the mess. He advised that the hotel clerk then said something to him about her sister committing suicide and he told her he was only joking around. He advised the hotel clerk then went into the back room and he went up to room 410 with Officer C.Woods.

I asked Officer Pelino to submit an email memorandum to me regarding the incident, to which he did (see below, attached to this email).

At approximately 0130 hours I spoke with Officer C.Woods in my office. I advised that I was conducting an informal inquiry into a citizen complaint made by a Hampton Inn employee regarding the possible suicidal subject call she was on earlier. I asked her to explain what happened while on that call. She immediately stated that she "tried to stop it". Officer C.Woods advised was talking to the hotel clerk trying to ascertain information on the person in room 410. Officer C.Woods advised that Officer Pelino walked in the hotel lobby and proceeded right past her to the coffee area. She said he poured himself a cup of coffee and began shaking the sugar or creamer container rather loudly. She said she looked over at him and stated "REALLY, we're on a call here". She said that is when Officer Pelino stated that he didn't care if she died and that he's not cleaning up the blood. She also said he made the comment that it was selfish to rent a room in Bedford Park to kill yourself. Officer C.Woods stated she told Officer Pelino several times to stop talking like that and even told him to leave, in which he did not. She then noticed that the hotel clerk was crying and walked into the back room. Officer C.Woods then went up to room 410 with Officer Pelino. She then stated that Officer Pelino escorted the possible suicidal subject down to the lobby while she stayed and spoke with another person in the room. Officer C.Woods then came back down to the lobby and Officer Pelino was already gone. Officer C.Woods went into the back room to see the hotel clerk (Parkison). She stated that she apologized to the hotel clerk (Parkison) for what had happened.

Based on my conversations with Parkison, Officer Pelino, Officer C.Woods and Officer Pelino's memorandum, I feel my initial informal inquiry into this complaint disclosed enough corroborating information to establish that inappropriate comments were made by Officer Pelino.

The sealed original copy of the Citizen Complaint form will be placed in your mailbox.

Nothing further at this time.

Lt. Lettiere #36

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**Lieutenant Pete Lettiere #36**  
Bedford Park Police Department  
6701 S. Archer Ave.  
Bedford Park, IL, 60501  
708-458-3388 (ext.336)

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**From:** Steve Pelino  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2017 1:20 AM  
**To:** Peter Lettiere  
**Subject:** complaint



Lt Lettiere,

I regards to the citizen complaint from 26 March 2017, I responded to a suicidal subject call at 6540 S Cicero Ave. Upon arrival Ofc Woods #47 was already on scene speaking with the desk clerk about the call. I walked to the elevators and waited. After a short period of time waiting I poured a cup of coffee and Ofc Woods made a comment about the coffee and I began to comment about the call. I made comments about that the subject's plight by saying that since she called the police she was not serious about killing herself because she would have done it without calling. With another interjection from Ofc Woods #47, I said I do not care if she kills herself because I would not be cleaning up the blood or mess. That's when the clerk commented about my jokes because her sister killed herself. As she walked away to the back room I said I was joking and that I was sorry. At this point I went up to room 410 knocked on the door and escorted the female subject down to the lobby and into the ambulance.

Steven Pelino



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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** OFC. PELINO  
**FROM:** CHIEF DAN GODFREY  
**SUBJECT:** WRITTEN REPRIMAND  
**DATE:** 3/27/2017  
**CC:** PERSONNEL FILE, POLICE COMMITTEE

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On March 26, 2017 a citizen complaint was lodged against you for your actions on 3/25/2017. An informal investigation was conducted by Lt. Lettiere. The determination by Lt. Lettiere after the informal investigation was that you had violated department policy and the Rules and Regulations.

Therefore, this memorandum will suffice as a written reprimand and placed in your permanent personnel file in that on 3/26/2017 your actions and words were in violation of Chapter 20 Section 21.1 Professional Conduct in that your conduct was unbecoming and reflected negatively upon you and the Bedford Park Police Department. In addition, you were in violation of Chapter 20 Section 22.4 in disregarding a senior officers directive to stop your narrative with the complainant because it was out of line. In addition, you violated Chapter 20 Section 23.3 in that you were not civil, orderly and courteous with the public.

These violations occurred while responding to a suicidal subject at the Hampton Inn and your actions and words towards front desk employee [REDACTED]. A copy of the citizens complaint and the report from Lt. Lettiere on the informal investigation will be attached to this Written Reprimand and placed in your personnel file.